Joint Dissertation Review

Name of the student:	Katherine Langdon
Title of the thesis:	The Ideological Enemy Within: How Victor Orban's Hungary Fell Out of Democracy as a Member State of the European Union
Reviewer:	

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD
(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The question is very relevant, and indeed it focuses attention of many researchers, which does not make the Author's task any easier. It is not easy to say something original about CEE countries' turn against liberal democracy, which would not have been already indicated by others. Nevertheless, Katherine presents her research problem clearly, and demonstrates a high level of competence in the relevant literature.

2. ANALYSIS
(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The qualitative methodology is well chosen however it is applied without. much rigour and discussion. There is a kind of "light" approach to formulation of questions and hypothesis, without much attention to conceptual precision. Methodological awareness is not the strongest point here. The theoretical background could be more developed, in particular was far as ideology is concerned, and also in order to create a stronger basis for possible comparison, but for the standards of Master thesis it is, in my opinion, satisfactory. The analysis of the process of democratic backslide in Hungary and its support among the public is carried our well. Perhaps the reader could learn more from the thesis when it comes to identifications of social and other factors which are responsible for the discussed processes.

3. CONCLUSIONS
(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The conclusions are correct and justified, though they could be more ambitious, especially in the sense of leading to some more theoretical implications.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE
(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

No problems here.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT
(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

A good thesis, with some shortcomings, mainly in the theoretical aspect of it. It constitutes a sufficient basis for the degree. Though somewhat too descriptive, the thesis contains a good analysis and demonstrates a high level of competence of the Author in the field of European politics and society.

Grade (A-F):	B (4.5 on the Polish scale))
Date:	Signature:
21 June, 2019	Zdzislaw Mach